

Message Text

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46

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O 131030Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6970

INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T CAIRO 12284

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG PFOR EG US IS XE

SUBJ: AMOCO ACTIVITIES IN GULF OF SUEZ - DEUTCHE TIDE INCIDENT

REF: (A) TEL AVIV 6260 (B) CAIRO 12263

1. AS BOTH DEPARTMENT AND TEL AVIV ARE AWARE, INFORMATION WE HAVE BEEN RECEIVING FROM AMOCO/EGYPT HAS AT TIMES BEEN EXAGGERATED AND AT OTHER TIMES EVEN INCORRECT (AS IN THE CASE OF THE REPORTED SIGHTING OF HELICOPTERS ON EVENING AUGUST 31 WHEN HELICOPTERS WERE, IN FACT, HEARD BUT NOT SEEN). WE BELIEVE THESE PROBLEMS ARISE BECAUSE OF POOR COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN CAIRO AND RAS SHUKAIR, AND NOT ANY DELIBERATE FABRICATION ON AMOCO'S PART. IN THIS CONNECTION, INCIDENT REPORTED BY CRAIG (SEE REF B) INVOLVING DEUTCHE TIDE, WHICH WAS FLATLY DENIED BY IDF TO DATT IN TEL AVIV, DISTURBED US SINCE IDF CONTACTS SEEMED CERTAIN AMOCO REPORT NOT TRUE. IN ORDER MAKE SURE OF FACTS AS AVAILABLE TO US, EMBOFF TALKED WITH CRAIG SEPTEMBER 12 TO ASK HIM FOR MORE DETAILS OF INCIDENT. FOLLOWING ARE ADDITIONAL POINTS PROVIDED ON THAT OCCASION, WHICH SOMEWHAT ALTER VERSION WE REPORTED EARLIER.

2. (A) DEUTCHE TIDE LOG SHOWS SHE WAS IN FACT

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INTERCEPTED BY ISRAELI PATROL BOAT AT 1530 LOCAL

SEPTEMBER 10 WHILE PLACING MARKER BUOY AT FOLLOWING
LOCATION: 28 DEGREES 18 MINUTES 11.30 SECONDS NORTH
33 DEGREES 18 MINUTES 52.02 SECOND EAST

THIS IS LOCATION OF PROPOSED PLATFORM 304-13 OF RAMADAN
FIELD WHICH HAS BEEN MENTIONED PREVIOUSLY. VERBAL
EXCHANGE TOOK PLACE IN WHICH PATROL BOAT ORDERED
DEUTCHE TIDE TO MOVE TO WEST OF MEDIAN LINE. CRAIG
PROMISED US COPY OF LOG ENTRY.

(B) DEUTCHE TIDE'S MAIN MISSION WAS TO REPLACE
BUOYS MARKING PIPELINE FROM RAMADAN FIELD TO
RAS SHUKAIR WHICH HAD EARLIER BEEN SHOT AWAY BY
ISRAELI PATROL BOAT. LACK OF BUOYS POSE THREAT TO
NAVIGATION AND COULD RESULT IN PIPELINE RUPTURE.
LOCATIONS OF BUOYS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

BUOY NO. 1 275 METERS SOUTH OF RAMADAN PLATFORM NO. 1
175 METERS EAST

BUOY NO. 2 540 METERS SOUTH OF RAMADAN PLATFORM NO. 1
375 METERS EAST

RAMADAN PLATFORM NO. 1 LOCATED AT:
28 DEGREES 17 MINUTES 31 SECONDS NORTH
33 DEGREES 18 MINUTES 52 SECONDS EAST
BECAUSE BOTH OF THESE BUOYS ARE APPARENTLY EAST OF
MEDIAN LINE, DEUTCHE TIDE COULD NOT REPLACE THEM
DUE TO PRESENCE OF ISRAELI PATROL BOAT AND ITS
ORDER MOVE TO WEST OF MEDIAN LINE.

(C) IN ADDITION TO SINKING OR TAKING AWAY ALL
MARKER BUOYS AT SITE 304 PLUS TWO MENTIONED ABOVE,
CRAIG HAS FURTHER REPORTED FROM RAS SHUKAIR CONFIRMING
THAT "MOST" OF THE ANCHOR BUOYS AT PLATFORM 1 AND
6 WERE ALSO DESTROYED. COORDINATES OF PLATFORM 6
ARE: 28 DEGREES 16 MINUTES 45.5 SECONDS NORTH
33 DEGREES 19 MINUTES 14.4 SECONDS EAST

3. CRAIG REGRETTED THAT DEUTCH E TIDE HAD MOVED TO
SITE 304-13 AT THIS TIME, BUT EMPHASIZED THERE
NOTHING UNUSUAL IN THESE OPERATION AND THAT ISRAELIS
HAD NOT OBJECTED PREVIOUSLY. HE REITERATED HIS
INTENTION NOT TO UNDERTAKE ANY FURTHER NEW ACTIVITY
IN THIS AREA UNTIL SITUATION CLARIFIED. HE WAS
INSISTENT, HOWEVER, THAT DESPITE ISRAELI CLAIMS,
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MARKER BUOYS, MENTIONED ABOVE, AND ASSOCIATED
WITH ALREADY ESTABLISHED PLATFORMS OF RAMADAN
FIELD HAD BEEN DESTROYED AND HE HAS EYEWITNESSES
TO PROVE IT. THESE WILL HAVE TO BE REPLACED IN
DUE COURSE, BECAUSE THEY POST THREAT TO NAVIGATION.

4. COMMENT: ABOVE INFORMATION REPRESENTS, WE BELIEVE,
FACTS AS CRAIG HAS THEM. IT CONTINUES BE OUR

OPINION HE IS PRIMARILY INTERESTED IN KEEPING SITUATION
UNDER CONTROL BOTH IN INTERESTS ESTABLISHING
WORKABLE SOLUTION TO CURRENT PROBLEMS, AND IN
INTERESTS PROTECTING AMERICAN LIVES AND PROPERTY
UNDER HIS RESPONSIBILITY.
MATTHEWS

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